



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF  
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

AUG 22 2017

Reply To: OCE-101

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Mr. James E. Thompson  
35 Front Street  
Issaquah, Washington 98027

RE: Request for Information Pursuant to Clean Water Act section 308  
(33 U.S.C. § 1318)

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On January 17, 2017, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") conducted a joint inspection along the shoreline of Carr Inlet of Puget Sound adjacent to your property at 10106 Rosedale Bay Court Northwest in Gig Harbor, Washington ("Site"). The inspection was in response to complaints regarding potential violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 *et seq.*

The complaints indicated that you excavated a channel through a natural berm separating an estuarine wetland and coastal lagoon from Carr Inlet, armored the channel with pavers and boulders and installed wooden groins in and around the channel. These activities discharged unauthorized dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of Carr Inlet, Puget Sound.

The CWA prohibits the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, except as authorized by a permit issued pursuant to section 404 of the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1344) by the Corps. The Corps' records do not identify a permit and/or an application for this unauthorized work activity on the Site.

The EPA is sending you this letter to obtain information regarding your knowledge and involvement with the alleged violations of the CWA. Pursuant to EPA's authority under section 308 of the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1318), you are required to respond to the enclosed information request (Enclosure 1).

Please read the instructions and definitions in the enclosures carefully before preparing your response. Answer each question as clearly and completely as possible. Your response to this request must be accompanied by a certificate that is signed and dated by you or the person who is authorized by you to respond to the request. The certification must state that the response is complete and contains all information and documentation available to you that is responsive to the request. A Statement of Certification is included with this letter (Enclosure 2). **Please submit your response within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of this letter to:**

Chan Pongkhamsing, Enforcement Specialist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Suite. 900, OCE-101  
Seattle, Washington 98101

In accordance with 40 CFR § 2.203(a), you are hereby notified that you may assert a business confidentiality claim covering part or all of the information requested above in the manner described by 40 CFR § 2.203(b). Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in 40 CFR part 2, subpart B. If no confidentiality claims accompany the information when it is received by EPA, the information may, without further notice to you, be made available to the public. EPA's regulations addressing this subject appear in 40 CFR part 2, subpart B, and 41 Federal Register 36902 through 36924 (September 1, 1976), as amended.

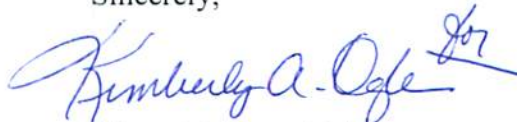
The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act, section 222, provides small businesses with the opportunity to submit comments on regulatory enforcement at the time of an Agency enforcement activity. The attached information sheet provides information on this right, as well as information on compliance assistance that may be available to you (Enclosure 3). The Small Business Ombudsman may be reached toll free at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Failure to provide all the information requested in this letter or to explain adequately the basis for such failure, or the making of any false material statement or representation in response to this Information Request, may constitute a violation of section 308 of the CWA, and may result in an enforcement action and the imposition of civil and/or criminal penalties or fines pursuant to section 309 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319, and Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. §1001.

If you have any questions concerning this investigation or other matters related to this request, please contact Chan Pongkhamsing at (206) 553-1806 or [pongkhamsing.chan@epa.gov](mailto:pongkhamsing.chan@epa.gov). If you have any legal questions concerning EPA's civil investigation, please have your attorney contact Ashley Palomaki, Assistant Regional Counsel at (206) 553-8582 or [palomaki.ashley@epa.gov](mailto:palomaki.ashley@epa.gov).

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kimberly A. Ogle" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward J. Kowalski  
Director

**Enclosures**

- (1) Information Request**
- (2) Statement of Certification**
- (3) Information Sheet (U.S. EPA Small Business Resources)**

**cc: Mr. Thomas Bloxton**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Seattle**

## ENCLOSURE 1

### INFORMATION REQUEST

This information is requested pursuant to Section 308(a) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA") (33 U.S.C. § 1318(a)).

#### Instructions

1. Answer Each Question Completely. Provide a separate answer to each question and subpart set forth in this Information Request. Please provide responses to all the questions in this Information Request. Incomplete, evasive, or ambiguous answers shall constitute failure to respond to this Information Request and may subject you to the penalties set out in the cover letter.
2. Number Each Answer. Number each answer with the number of the question to which it corresponds.
3. Submit Supporting Documents. Any documents relied upon or used by you to answer any of the questions in the request must be copied and submitted to EPA with your response. All documents must contain a notation indicating the question they respond to.
4. Provide the Best Information Available. Provide responses to the best of your ability, even if the information sought was never put down in writing or if the written documents are no longer available. Seek out information that may be known to agents or persons that you authorized to act on your behalf. If your responses are qualified in any manner, please explain.
5. Supplemental Information and Notification. If information or documents not known or not available to you as of the date of submission of your response to this request should later become known or available to you, you must supplement your response to EPA. Moreover, should you find, at any time after the submission of your response, that any portion of the submitted information is false or misrepresents the truth, you must notify the EPA of this fact as soon as possible and provide a corrected response.

#### Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to this request:

1. The term "you" shall mean the addressee(s) of this request. The term "you" also includes the addressee's company or other business entity (if any), its officers, directors, managers, employees, contractors, trustees, partners, successors, assigns, and agents.

2. The term “person” shall have the same definition as in section 502(5) of the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1362(5)): an individual, corporation, partnership, association, State, municipality, commission, or political subdivision of a State, or any interstate body.
3. The term “identify” means, with respect to a natural person, the person's name, present or last known business address and business telephone number, present or last known home address and home telephone number, and present or last known job title, position, or business.
4. The term “identify” means, with respect to a corporation, partnership, or other association or business entity (including a sole proprietorship), its full name, address, legal form (*e.g.* corporation, partnership, *etc.*), organization, if any, and a brief description of its business.
5. The term “identify” means, with respect to a document, to provide its customary business description, its date, its number, if any (*e.g.*, invoice or purchase order number), and the substance or subject matter. In lieu of identifying a document, attaching a copy of such document to your response is sufficient.
6. The term “document” and “documents” means all information in any reproducible form, including, but not limited to, writings, maps, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, phono-records, tapes, computer disks, and other data compilations from which information can be obtained or translated through any means into usable form, including information stored on computer hard drives.
7. The terms “dredged material,” “discharge of dredged material,” “fill material,” and “discharge of fill material” shall have the same definitions as in 33 C.F.R. § 323.2.
8. The term “Site” means the property on which the alleged violations occurred, and all adjacent property to which you have claim of title or operation. In this case, the “Site” refers to certain dredged and/or fill material placed in waters of the United States, including wetlands, below the OHWM of Carr Inlet, on your property located at 10106 Rosedale Bay Court Northwest in Gig Harbor, Washington (Site).
9. The term “waters of the United States” shall have the same definition as in 33 C.F.R. Part 328.
10. The term “wetlands” shall have the same definition as in 33 C.F.R. § 328.3(b).
11. The term “work activity” means any and all construction, excavation, diversion, clearing, grading, ditching, ponding, sidecasting, filling, dredging, and the placement or movement of native river bed material, dredge spoil, rock, sand, gravel, concrete, garbage or any other fill material, dredged material, or other pollutant within the meaning of section 502(6) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6).

12. The terms “and” and “or” shall be construed either conjunctively or disjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of this request any information which might otherwise be construed to be outside its scope.
13. All terms not defined herein shall have their ordinary meaning, unless such terms are defined in the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq., or in the regulations found at 33 C.F.R. parts 323 and 328, in which case the statutory or regulatory definitions shall apply.

### **Questions**

1. Identify and describe all “work activity” conducted at the “Site” during the last five years. For each discrete activity, include in your description the following information:
  - a. location of the work activity (by legal description, survey, map, etc.);
  - b. approximate commencement and completion dates of the work activity;
  - c. approximate acreage, linear feet, height/depth disturbed;
  - d. approximate volume (cubic yards), linear feet, and area (acres) of dredged and/or fill material discharged;
  - e. identify the purpose and need for the work activity;
  - f. identify the person(s) authorizing the work activity;
  - g. identify the person(s) performing the work activity;
  - h. identify the person(s) receiving payment for the work activity;
  - i. identify the person(s) providing payment for the work activity and the amount paid; and
  - j. identify the machinery and equipment used to perform the work activity and identify their ownership and whether the machinery or equipment was rented by you or operated by another person authorized by you.
    - Specific activities include: 1) trenching of channel; 2) armoring of channel; 3) placement of log groins; and 4) other subsequent activities
2. Define on a map or survey of the Site all locations where any dredged and/or fill material was placed and where any other work activity has taken place. On the same map delineate, to the extent known, the wetland area and the OHWM of Carr Inlet.

3. Identify and describe the type of business(es) operating at the Site and the year(s) of operation.
4. Identify and describe all current and future plans for work by you or other person(s) at the Site in waters of the United States.
5. Provide copies of any and all correspondences, authorizations, or permits obtained from any Federal, State, or local government agency authorizing development of the Site or pertaining in any way to the discharges of dredged and/or fill material described above.
6. Provide copies of any and all correspondences or permission documents obtained from appropriate landowners authorizing development of the Site or pertaining in any way to the discharges of dredged and/or fill material described above.
7. Prior to the commencement of dredging and/or fill work at the Site, have you ever applied for a CWA section 404 permit for any project, including Nationwide and/or General Permits (NWP's and/or GP's)? If so, provide an account of the dates the permits were requested and whether the permits were issued;
8. If you have not applied for a permit, provide a detailed explanation of your reasons for not obtaining CWA section 404 permit prior to beginning the dredging and/or filling activities at the Site.
9. Identify and submit copies of all sketches, plans, and as-built drawings related to the planning and construction of the activities at the Site.
10. Provide any additional information that may be relevant to resolving this matter.

**ENCLOSURE 2**

**STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION**

**James E. Thompson**

I certify that the foregoing responses and information submitted were prepared under my direction or supervision and that I have personal knowledge of all matters set forth in the responses and accompanying information. I certify that the responses are true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)



## U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet

The United States Environmental Protection Agency provides an array of resources to help small businesses understand and comply with federal and state environmental laws. In addition to helping small businesses understand their environmental obligations and improve compliance, these resources will also help such businesses find cost-effective ways to comply through pollution prevention techniques and innovative technologies.

### Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU)

[www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-small-and-disadvantaged-business-utilization-osdbu)

EPA's OSDBU advocates and advances business, regulatory, and environmental compliance concerns of small and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses.

### EPA's Asbestos Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO)

[www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman](http://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/asbestos-small-business-ombudsman) or 1-800-368-5888

The EPA ASBO serves as a conduit for small businesses to access EPA and facilitates communications between the small business community and the Agency.

### Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

<https://nationalsbeap.org>

This program provides a "one-stop shop" for small businesses and assistance providers seeking information on a wide range of environmental topics and state-specific environmental compliance assistance resources.

### EPA's Compliance Assistance Homepage

[www.epa.gov/compliance](http://www.epa.gov/compliance)

This page is a gateway to industry and statute-specific environmental resources, from extensive web-based information to hotlines and compliance assistance specialists.

### Compliance Assistance Centers

[www.complianceassistance.net](http://www.complianceassistance.net)

EPA sponsored Compliance Assistance Centers provide information targeted to industries with many small businesses. They were developed in partnership with industry, universities and other federal and state agencies.

### Agriculture

[www.epa.gov/agriculture](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture)

### Automotive Recycling

[www.ecarcenter.org](http://www.ecarcenter.org)

### Automotive Service and Repair

[www.ccar-greenlink.org](http://www.ccar-greenlink.org) or 1-888-GRN-LINK

### Chemical Manufacturing

[www.chemalliance.org](http://www.chemalliance.org)

### Construction

[www.cicacenter.org](http://www.cicacenter.org)

### Education

[www.campuserc.org](http://www.campuserc.org)

### Food Processing

[www.fpeac.org](http://www.fpeac.org)

### Healthcare

[www.hercenter.org](http://www.hercenter.org)

### Local Government

[www.lgean.org](http://www.lgean.org)

### Surface Finishing

<http://www.sterc.org>

### Paints and Coatings

[www.paintcenter.org](http://www.paintcenter.org)

### Printing

[www.pneac.org](http://www.pneac.org)

### Ports

[www.portcompliance.org](http://www.portcompliance.org)

### Transportation

[www.tercenter.org](http://www.tercenter.org)

### U.S. Border Compliance and Import/Export Issues

[www.bordercenter.org](http://www.bordercenter.org)

### EPA Hotlines and Clearinghouses

[www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines](http://www.epa.gov/home/epa-hotlines)

EPA sponsors many free hotlines and clearinghouses that provide convenient assistance regarding environmental requirements. Examples include:

### Clean Air Technology Center (CATC) Info-line

[www.epa.gov/catc](http://www.epa.gov/catc) or 1-919-541-0800

### Superfund, TRI, EPCRA, RMP, and Oil Information Center

1-800-424-9346

### EPA Imported Vehicles and Engines Public Helpline

[www.epa.gov/otaq/imports](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/imports) or 1-734-214-4100

### National Pesticide Information Center

[www.npic.orst.edu](http://www.npic.orst.edu) or 1-800-858-7378

### National Response Center Hotline to report oil and hazardous substance spills -

<http://nrc.uscg.mil> or 1-800-424-8802

### Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC) -

[www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic](http://www.epa.gov/p2/pollution-prevention-resources#ppic) or 1-202-566-0799

### Safe Drinking Water Hotline -

[www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline](http://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline) or 1-800-426-4791

### Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Hotline

[tsc hotline@epa.gov](mailto:tsc hotline@epa.gov) or 1-202-554-1404



### Small Entity Compliance Guides

<https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex/small-entity-compliance-guides>

EPA publishes a Small Entity Compliance Guide (SECG) for every rule for which the Agency has prepared a final regulatory flexibility analysis, in accordance with Section 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA).

### Regional Small Business Liaisons

[www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons](http://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses/epa-regional-office-small-business-liaisons)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Small Business Liaison (RSBL) is the primary regional contact and often the expert on small business assistance, advocacy, and outreach. The RSBL is the regional voice for the EPA Asbestos and Small Business Ombudsman (ASBO).

### State Resource Locators

[www.envcap.org/statetools](http://www.envcap.org/statetools)

The Locators provide state-specific contacts, regulations and resources covering the major environmental laws.

### State Small Business Environmental Assistance Programs (SBEAPs)

<https://nationalsbeap.org/states/list>

State SBEAPs help small businesses and assistance providers understand environmental requirements and sustainable business practices through workshops, trainings and site visits.

### EPA's Tribal Portal

[www.epa.gov/tribalportal](http://www.epa.gov/tribalportal)

The Portal helps users locate tribal-related information within EPA and other federal agencies.

### EPA Compliance Incentives

EPA provides incentives for environmental compliance. By participating in compliance assistance programs or voluntarily disclosing and promptly correcting violations before an enforcement action has been initiated, businesses may be eligible for penalty waivers or reductions. EPA has two such policies that may apply to small businesses:

#### EPA's Small Business Compliance Policy

[www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement](http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/small-businesses-and-enforcement)

#### EPA's Audit Policy

[www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/epas-audit-policy)

### Commenting on Federal Enforcement Actions and Compliance Activities

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) established a SBREFA Ombudsman and 10 Regional Fairness Boards to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. If you believe that you fall within the Small Business Administration's definition of a small business (based on your North American Industry Classification System designation, number of employees or annual receipts, as defined at 13 C.F.R. 121.201; in most cases, this means a business with 500 or fewer employees), and wish to comment on federal enforcement and compliance activities, call the SBREFA Ombudsman's toll-free number at 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Every small business that is the subject of an enforcement or compliance action is entitled to comment on the Agency's actions without fear of retaliation. EPA employees are prohibited from using enforcement or any other means of retaliation against any member of the regulated community in response to comments made under SBREFA.

### Your Duty to Comply

If you receive compliance assistance or submit a comment to the SBREFA Ombudsman or Regional Fairness Boards, you still have the duty to comply with the law, including providing timely responses to EPA information requests, administrative or civil complaints, other enforcement actions or communications. The assistance information and comment processes do not give you any new rights or defenses in any enforcement action. These processes also do not affect EPA's obligation to protect public health or the environment under any of the environmental statutes it enforces, including the right to take emergency remedial or emergency response actions when appropriate. Those decisions will be based on the facts in each situation. The SBREFA Ombudsman and Fairness Boards do not participate in resolving EPA's enforcement actions. Also, remember that to preserve your rights, you need to comply with all rules governing the enforcement process.

*EPA is disseminating this information to you without making a determination that your business or organization is a small business as defined by Section 222 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act or related provisions.*